

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Overview

Marine Fisheries Committee (LRC)(2011)
North Carolina General Assembly

Gordon Myers, Executive Director
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
January 5, 2012



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

- **Agency Background**
- **Agency Board**
- **Rulemaking**
- **Key Funding Elements**
- **Constituency & Economic Considerations**



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Agency Purpose – derived from enabling legislation in 1947 (G.S. 143-239):

“to manage, restore, develop, cultivate, conserve, protect, and regulate the game, game and freshwater fishes, and other wildlife resources of the State...”

“The purpose of the WRC is to develop and administer programs directed to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.”



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Strategic Plan

Adopted December 2009

Application & Use

- Define core functions
- Focus division planning
- Evaluate organizational structure
- Establish/support partnerships
- Communicate/educate constituents



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

N.C. Constitution Article XIV

Sec. 5. Conservation of natural resources.

“It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry...”

§ 113-131. *“(a) The marine and estuarine and wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole. The Department and the Wildlife Resources Commission are charged with stewardship of these resources.”*

§ 1-45.1. *"public trust rights" means those rights held in trust by the State for the use and benefit of the people of the State in common... They include, but are not limited to, the right to navigate, swim, hunt, fish, and enjoy all recreational activities in the watercourses of the State*



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

- Mission Statement – actions required
 - *Focus - Conservation & Opportunity*

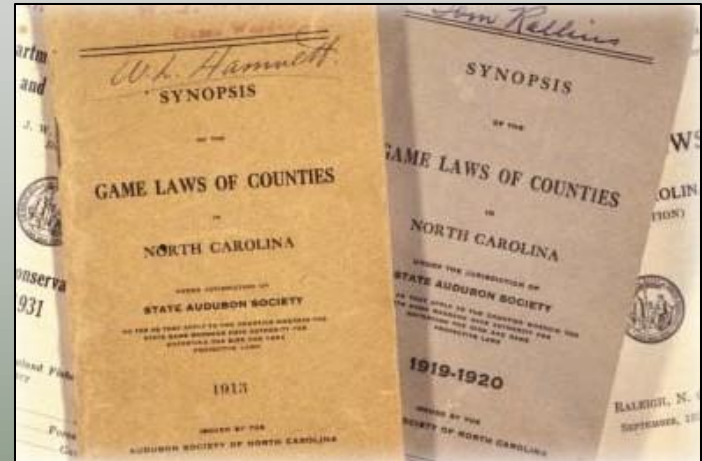
“To conserve North Carolina’s wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.”



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Background

Six Agency Divisions

- Law Enforcement
 - Wildlife Management
 - Inland Fisheries
 - Conservation Education
 - Administrative Services
 - Engineering Services
-
- 649 FTE (includes 15 law enforcement recruit positions that become vacant after placement)
 - Peak FTE of 687 employees in 2008
 - Reduced through RIF and elimination of vacancies



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Law Enforcement Division

- 205 sworn field officers
- Public safety
- Enforce rules and regulations established by the WRC and General Assembly
- Protect state public trust resources by gaining compliance with wildlife resources and boating laws
- Full arrest authority for state and federal violations



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Wildlife Management Division

- Manage terrestrial wildlife species
 - Game and nongame
- Public lands management
 - Habitat and public access
 - 2 million acres of public game lands
- Monitor health and status of wildlife populations
- Help resolve human-wildlife conflicts through technical guidance
- Assist commission with hunting and trapping regulations development



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Inland Fisheries Division

- Manages statewide inland fisheries and aquatic resources
- Conserves sport fish populations and promotes and develops public fishing opportunities
 - Fishery enhancement and public access
 - Hatchery support to warmwater and coldwater fisheries
- Monitor health and status of Inland fisheries
- Safeguard and enhance aquatic and wetland habitats
- Assist commission with fishing regulations development

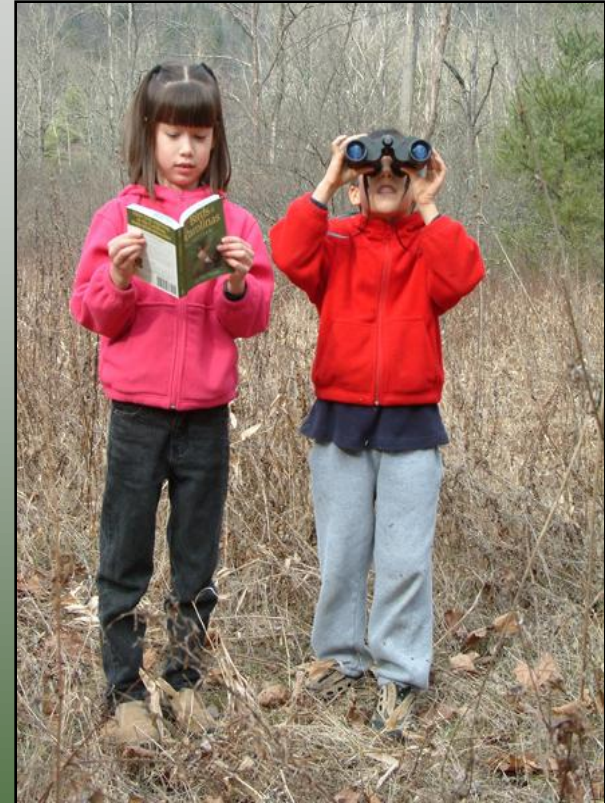


North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Conservation Education Division

- Manages education and outreach designed to facilitate conservation of the wildlife and their habitats
 - 3 wildlife education centers
 - 1 fishing education center
 - Other outreach programs
- Manage public information and agency communications
- Produce *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine and other special publications



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Administrative Services Division

- Administrative and financial support services
 - Hunting/fishing license sales
 - Registration/titling of vessels
 - Coastal recreation fishing license sale for Division of Marine Fisheries
 - Budget management
 - Agency controller oversight
 - Purchasing support
 - Information technology support
 - Customer service support



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Engineering Services Division

- Aids to Navigation
- Public Boating and Fishing Access
- Capital Development Program
- Facilities Management Services

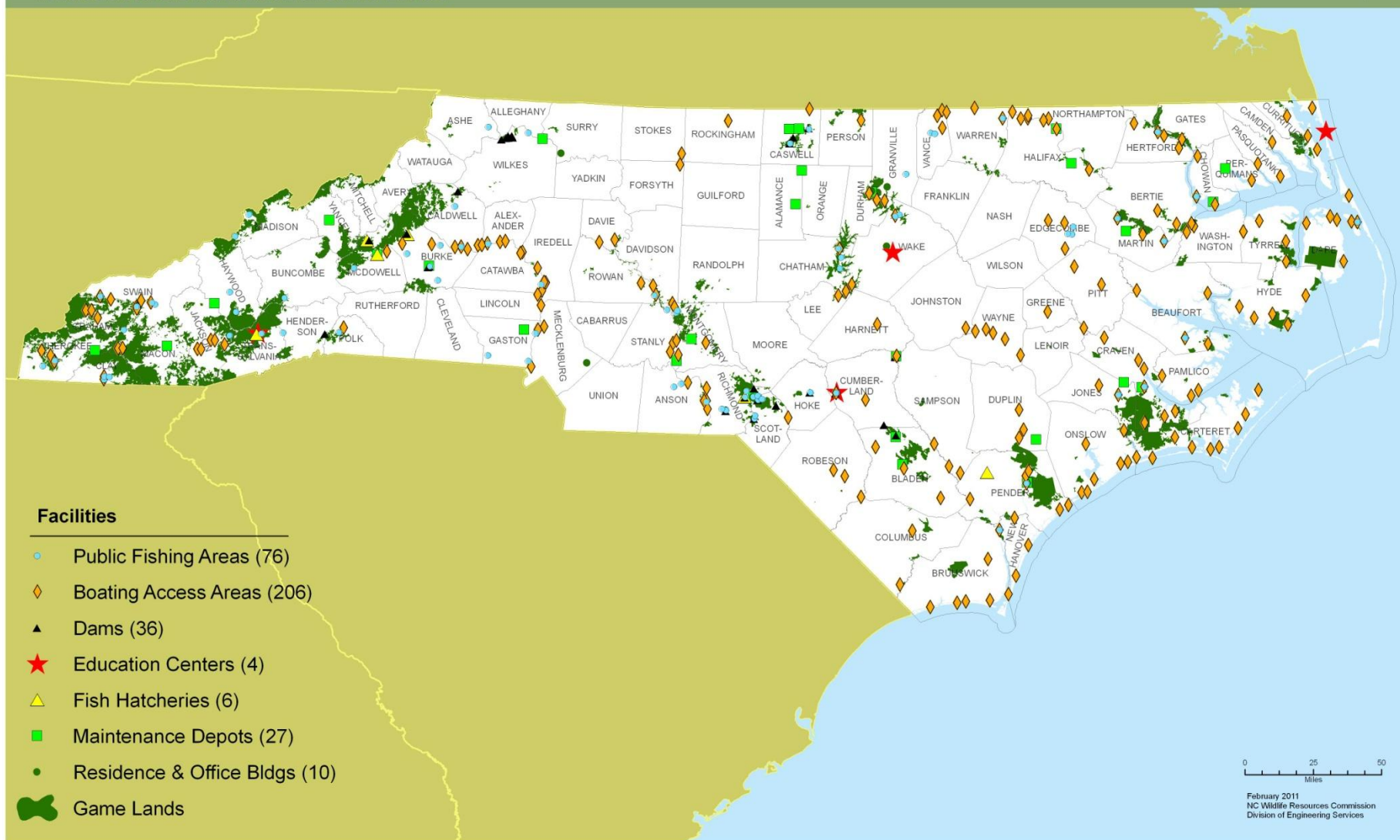


North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Funding

WRC statewide infrastructure:

- 2 million acres of public game lands:
 - 471,101 acres under WRC ownership
 - 1,435,196 acres managed under cooperative agreement
- 49 lakes and ponds; including 44 dams
- 73 waterfowl impoundments
- 1,044 miles of unpaved roads
- 91 bridges and 1,413 culverts
- 228 parking areas and 28 campgrounds
- 207 public boating access areas
- 65 public fishing areas
- 4 education centers
- 6 State Fish Hatcheries 137 buildings that range from storage building and field stations to state fish hatcheries and a 73,000 sq. ft. office building





Statewide Infrastructure with game lands



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Board

NC General Statutes Chapter 143-Article 24

§ 143-240. Creation of Wildlife Resources Commission; districts; qualifications of members.

- 19 members
- Must be ***experienced hunter, fisherman, farmer, or biologist***, who shall be ***generally informed*** on wildlife conservation and restoration problems
- Governor appoints 9 district commissioners to serve 6-year terms
 - Staggered appointments
 - WRC Districts 1, 4, 7
 - WRC Districts 2, 5, 8
 - WRC Districts 3, 6, 9 (***appointments in 2011***)
- Governor appoints 2 at-large commissioners to serve 4-year terms
- NC General Assembly appoints 8 commissioners to serve 2-year terms
 - 4 upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
 - 4 upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House
 - ***ALL legislative appointments were filled last summer***



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Board

NC General Statutes Chapter 143-Article 24

- The commission chairman shall guide and coordinate the official actions and official activities of the Commission in fulfilling its program responsibility for
 - appointment of the executive director
 - organizing the personnel of the Commission
 - setting the statewide policy of the Commission
 - budgeting and planning the use of the Wildlife and Motorboat Funds
 - holding public hearings
 - adopting rules as authorized by law
- The commission may delegate administrative powers to executive director
- Commission shall conduct at least two meetings annually (typically 5 to 7)
- Board Expenses in FY 2009-10: \$27,777



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Board

Rulemaking

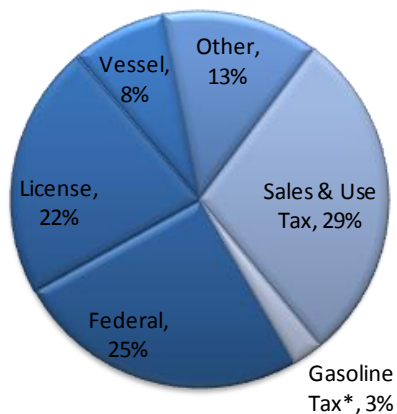
- Important responsibility of the Commission
 - Process governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, G.S. 150B, Article 2A
 - Commission governance serves as a means to deliberate and filter a range of biases
- Success requires
 - Public accountability
 - Collaborative partnership between stakeholders, professional staff, executive director, governor and legislature
 - **Function as trustees of the State's Wildlife Resources**
- Process to achieve success
 - Annual rulemaking cycle
 - Work accomplished through committee system
 - “Generalist” board approach
- Operating Environment
 - Changing constituencies
 - Changing public values
 - Increased stress on wildlife resources (effects of population growth, etc.)
 - Limitations on financial resources
 - Complexity of synthesizing public versus biological needs



Funding: Receipts

Net Receipts by Source for FY 2011

Total Net Receipts: \$75,037,115

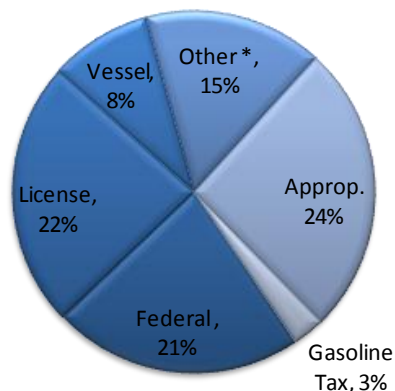


Source	Amount	Percent
Federal	\$ 18,967,069	25%
License	\$ 16,360,400	22%
Vessel	\$ 6,104,425	8%
Other	\$ 10,084,706	13%
Sales & Use Tax	\$ 21,500,000	29%
Gasoline Tax*	\$ 2,020,515	3%
TOTAL	\$ 75,037,115	--

*in accordance with NCGS 105-449.126

Net Receipts by Source for FY 2012

Total Certified Receipts: \$69,482,266



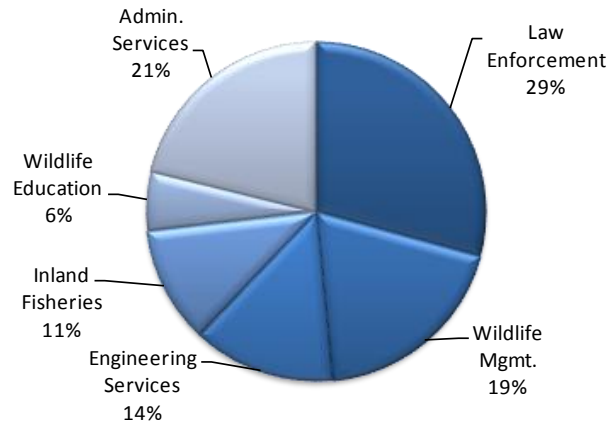
Source	Amount	Percent
Federal	\$ 15,528,094	21%
License	\$ 16,500,000	22%
Vessel	\$ 6,300,000	8%
Other *	\$ 11,153,783	15%
Appropriations	\$ 18,000,000	24%
Gasoline Tax	\$ 2,000,389	3%
TOTAL	\$ 69,482,266	--

* Other certified revenues include \$350,000 tax checkoff, \$5.0 million in timber revenue, \$379,000 in magazine subscriptions, and approx. \$1 million in revenue from other products, services and other private grants.

Funding: Expenditures

Operating Expenditures by Division: FY2011

Total: \$77,651,721.18

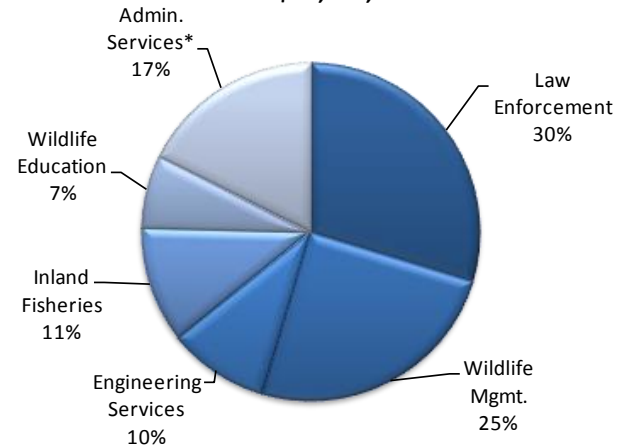


Division	Amount	Percent
Enforcement	\$ 22,715,305	29%
Wildlife Mgmt.	\$ 14,920,541	19%
Engineering	\$ 10,527,919	14%
Inland Fisheries	\$ 8,638,856	11%
Education	\$ 4,395,862	6%
Administration*	\$ 16,453,239	21%
TOTAL	\$ 77,651,721	--

* Administration costs include a \$6,000,000 in reversions of Sales Tax to the General Fund, \$1,432,000 in bond debt payments, and \$1,114,699 in service agent commissions.

Certified Expenditures by Division for FY 2012

Total: \$68,564,143



Division	Amount	Percent
Enforcement	\$ 20,387,364	26%
Wildlife Mgmt.	\$ 17,039,910	22%
Engineering	\$ 6,639,702	9%
Inland Fisheries	\$ 7,620,213	10%
Education	\$ 4,785,277	6%
Administration*	\$ 12,091,677	16%
TOTAL	\$ 68,564,143	--

* Administration costs include \$1,432,288 in bond debt payments, and \$1,188,218 in service agent commissions.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

Federal Grants- (\$15.6M)

A User Pay Funding Model

- Early in 20th Century- sportsmen led crusade for advances in conservation
- Passage of ***Federal Aid in Wildlife Management Act*** in 1937 (Pittman-Robertson)
- Linked wildlife policy, hunting license sales and federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and other sporting goods
- Eligibility for these funds required state assent legislation prohibiting the use of license money for purposes other than wildlife management
- Assent provisions included in establishing 1947 legislation establishing the WRC
- Passage of companion legislation for fisheries management, ***Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act*** in 1950 (Dingel-Johnson)
- Additional federal grants include: State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Boating Safety, Farm Bill and others



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

Hunting & Fishing License Sales- (\$16.5M)

User Pay Funding Model

- Together hunting and fishing license sales and federal grants form the core funding elements of state fish and wildlife agencies
- License receipts and federal grants comprise approximately ½ the WRC budget (\$35.2M in FY2011)
- Although most wildlife species are not hunted or fished, most funding for wildlife conservation continues to originate from hunters and anglers (Responsive Management 2006)



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

General Fund Appropriation- (\$18M)

Fundamental change in WRC funding model

Where we were:

§ 105-164.44B. Transfer to Wildlife Resources Fund of taxes on hunting and fishing supplies and equipment

Last several years: FY08-09: \$24.7M; FY09-10: \$21.5M; FY10-11: \$18.5M

Where we are:

WRC now relies upon General Fund support for a portion of our budget

FY 2011-2012:

- \$18M appropriation
 - \$600K shall be expended on Beaver Management Assistance Program
 - All other funds to pay salaries



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina sportsmen

1 million hunters & anglers spending \$4.7 million a day



TOTAL SPENDING \$1.7 billion

Casting
benefits
throughout
the economy.

- Sportsmen support more jobs in North Carolina than the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University and the Duke University Medical Center combined (29,000 jobs vs. 26,500).
- Annual spending by North Carolina sportsmen is more than revenues of Trinity-based Sealy (\$1.7 billion vs. \$1.6 billion).
- Sportsmen in North Carolina spend more each year than the combined cash receipts for greenhouse/nursery and turkeys, two of the most valuable agricultural commodities in the state (\$1.7 billion vs. \$1.5 billion).
- North Carolina sportsmen spend \$313 million annually on outboard boats and engines to get out on the water and around the marshes for fishing and hunting.
- North Carolina sportsmen could fill every seat at Lowes Motor Speedway more than 6 times (1 million vs. 165,000).

Lots of bang. Even more bucks.

Jobs	29,000
Salaries and wages	\$818 million
Federal Taxes	\$194 million
State and Local Taxes	\$170 million
Ripple Effect	\$2.8 billion

Sportsmen in North Carolina

As a Constituency

Resident Anglers:	868,000
Resident Hunters:	277,000
Registered Vessels:	360,000

As an Economic Force

NC Angler Retail Spending: \$1.2B

NC Hunter Retail Spending: \$512M

All Wildlife Related Retail Spending: \$2.6B

Associated Salaries and Wages: \$1.3B

Hunting and Fishing in NC supports:

29,000 jobs

\$170 Million in state and local tax revenue



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MOUNTAIN TROUT FISHING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Executive Summary

MOUNTAIN FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS

Federal Aid in Fish Restoration
Project F-86

Period Covered: November 2008–June 2009

Prepared for:
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Prepared by:
Responsive Management and Southwick Associates



2009



Cost-Benefit Example: Mountain trout anglers' contribution to North Carolina's economy

(Responsive Management 2008)

- 92,769 mountain trout anglers
 - 76,761 residents
 - 16,008 nonresidents
- 1.42 million fishing days

Direct spending: **\$146 million**

Total economic output: **\$174 million**

**To sustain this fishery, the WRC produces
and stocks more than 800,000 catchable
size trout**

- Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery
- Armstrong State Fish Hatchery
- Marion State Fish Hatchery

